

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
9

10 GLASS EGG DIGITAL MEDIA,  
11 Plaintiff,  
12 v.  
13 GAMELOFT, INC., et al.,  
14 Defendants.

Case No. [17-cv-04165-MMC](#)

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

Re: Dkt. No. 65

15  
16 Before the Court is plaintiff Glass Egg Digital Media Limited's ("Glass Egg")  
17 "Motion for Preliminary Injunction," filed January 5, 2018, by which Glass Egg seeks an  
18 order enjoining defendant Gameloft, Inc. ("Gameloft USA"), pending resolution of the  
19 instant action, from further engaging in the conduct Glass Egg alleges constitutes  
20 copyright infringement. Gameloft USA has filed opposition, to which Glass Egg has  
21 replied. The Court, having read and considered the papers filed in support of and in  
22 opposition to the motion, deems the matter appropriate for determination on the parties'  
23 respective written submissions, hereby VACATES the hearing scheduled for March 9,  
24 2018, and rules as follows.

25 In the instant action, Glass Egg alleges Gameloft USA markets and sells mobile  
26 car racing games from the "Asphalt" game series, which games incorporate 3D digital car  
27 models for which Glass Egg claims a copyright. Glass Egg further alleges Gameloft  
28

1 Iberica S.A.U. (“Gameloft Spain”),<sup>1</sup> which creates the Asphalt games, obtained the  
2 subject digital car models by outsourcing their production to a third-party entity, which  
3 entity outsourced production to a company owned by a Glass Egg employee, who  
4 thereafter covertly recruited additional Glass Egg employees to produce the digital car  
5 models.

6 Based thereon, Glass Egg seeks an order preliminarily enjoining Gameloft USA  
7 from marketing or selling the digital car models in the Asphalt game series.

8 A preliminary injunction is “an extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded  
9 upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief.” See Winter v. Natural  
10 Res. Def. Council, 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008). A plaintiff is entitled to a preliminary injunction  
11 only if he demonstrates that (1) “he is likely to succeed on the merits,” (2) “he is likely to  
12 suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief,” (3) “the balance of equities  
13 tips in his favor,” and (4) “an injunction is in the public interest.” See id. at 20.

14 With regard to the second element, a plaintiff must “demonstrate that irreparable  
15 injury is *likely*”; a preliminary injunction cannot be issued based “only on a possibility of  
16 irreparable harm.” See id. at 22 (emphasis in original); see also Boardman v. Pac.  
17 Seafood Grp., 822 F.3d 1011, 1022 (9th Cir. 2016) (holding “[a] plaintiff must do more  
18 than merely allege imminent harm . . . ; a plaintiff must *demonstrate* immediate  
19 threatened injury”) (emphasis in original). As discussed below, Glass Egg has failed to  
20 make the requisite showing.<sup>2</sup>

21 Glass Egg asserts Gameloft USA’s marketing and selling of the digital car models,  
22 which, according to Glass Egg, are the product of Glass Egg’s employees’ “clandestine  
23

---

24 <sup>1</sup> Gameloft Spain and Gameloft USA are both wholly owned subsidiaries of  
25 Gameloft SE.

26 <sup>2</sup> In light of this finding, the Court does not further consider herein whether Glass  
27 Egg has established the other three elements set forth in Winter. See Disney  
28 Enterprises, Inc. v. VidAngel, Inc., 869 F.3d 848, 865 (9th Cir. 2017) (holding “preliminary  
injunction may issue only upon a showing that irreparable injury is likely in the absence of  
an injunction”) (internal quotation and citation omitted).

activit[ies]” (see Reply at 14:1), has created a “narrative about [Glass Egg’s] supposed lax security,” thereby “smearing” Glass Egg’s “overall reputation” and “undermin[ing]” its “negotiating position” (see id. at 13:11-25). In support thereof, Glass Egg provides in its motion a single citation to the record, namely, a declaration in which Phil Tran (“Tran”), its Chief Executive Officer, states Sébastien Auligny (“Auligny”), the “head of Gameloft Vietnam,” told Glass Egg’s attorney that Glass Egg was “acting like a ‘bad loser.’” (See Declaration of Phil Tran in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction ¶¶ 54, 61). Whatever Auligny may have meant by such remark, the opinion of a single individual, indeed, one associated with the opposing party, cannot be said to reflect the opinion of the community at large.

Although, Glass Egg, in its reply, includes another citation, in this instance to one paragraph of a supplemental declaration submitted by Tran, such citation likewise is unavailing. That paragraph states in its entirety: “In fact, I understand from colleagues attending the D.I.C.E. Summit in Las Vegas last week, a conference for game industry business leaders, that publishers and developers have already begun to express concern and are now hesitant to outsource work to companies like Glass Egg due to potential security and IP ownership risks.” (See Supplemental Declaration of Phil Tran in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction ¶ 74.) Tran’s “understanding,” absent further elaboration, e.g., what was said, lacks factual support and, consequently, is insufficient to demonstrate the requisite likelihood of irreparable harm. See Boardman, 822 F.3d at 1022 (holding “[s]peculative injury does not constitute irreparable injury sufficient to warrant granting a preliminary injunction”) (internal quotation and citation omitted).

Lastly, as Gameloft USA points out in its opposition, and Glass Egg does not address in its reply, Glass Egg has not explained how the requested injunctive relief would serve to avert any anticipated harm to Glass Egg’s reputation or negotiating position. See Winter, 555 U.S. at 22 (holding plaintiff must establish it is “likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief”) (emphasis added).

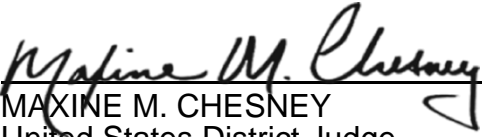
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunctive relief is hereby DENIED.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: March 2, 2018

  
MAXINE M. CHESNEY  
United States District Judge